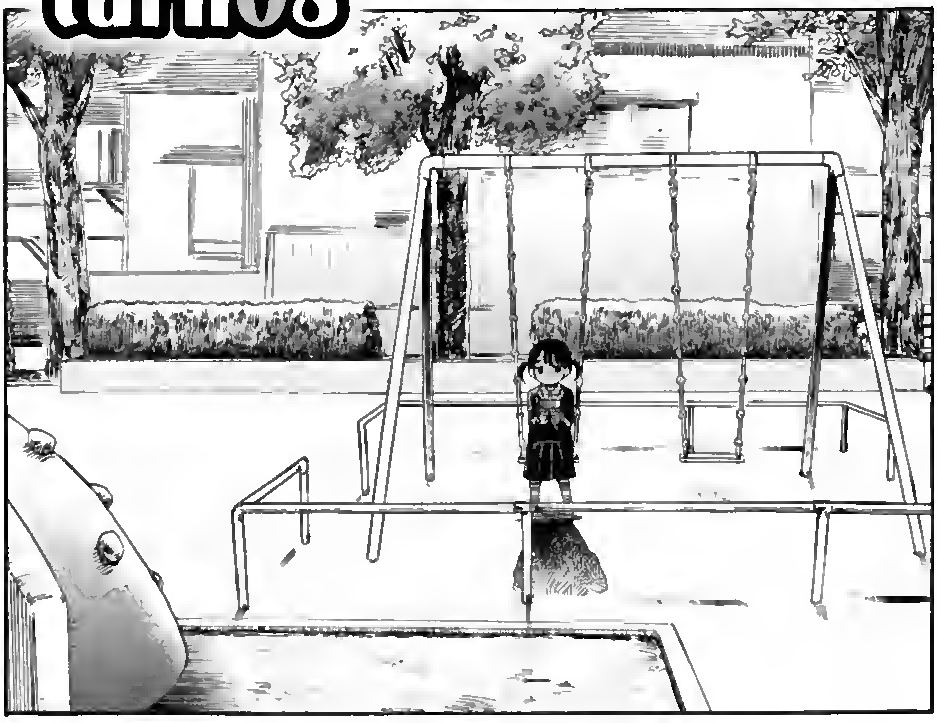
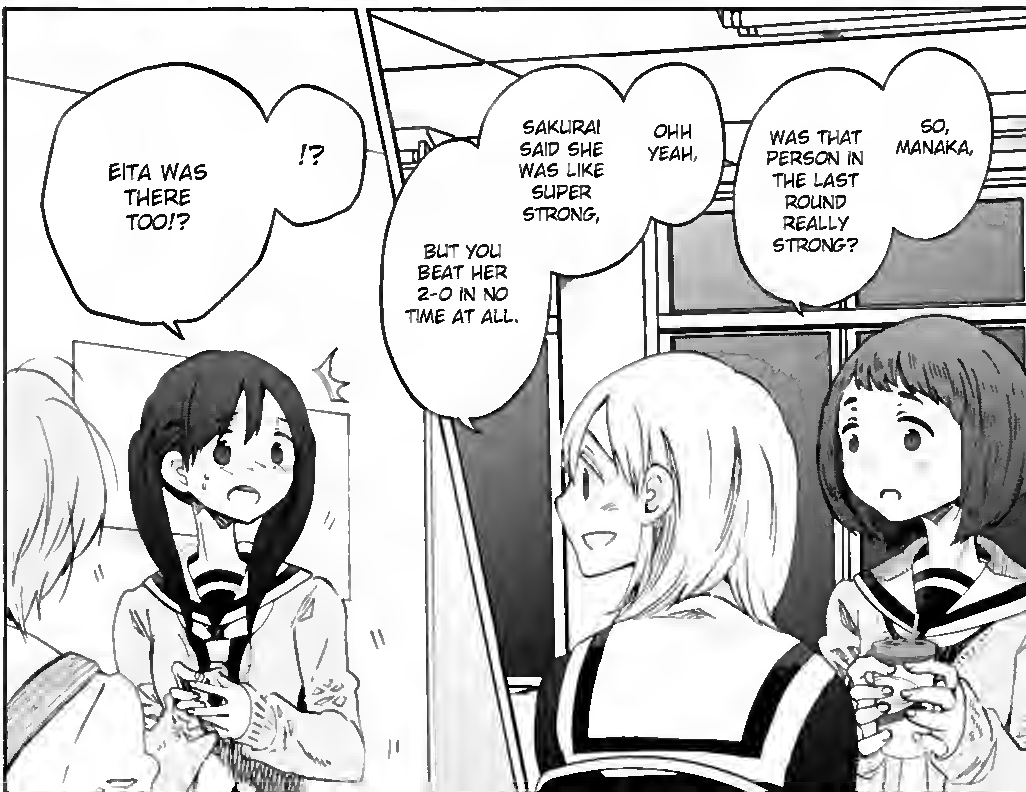
..SO, YOU WERE SAYING?
MANAKA SEEMS PLENTY STRONG TO ME.
WOW! SHE'S REALLY GOOD!
I GUESS SHE IS
Y-... YEAH.
DRAW

turn08



HEEY!
MANAKA!
AYANO?
MIYU?
YOU CAME TO WATCH!?
WE ONLY MADE IT IN TIME FOR THE LAST ROUND, THOUGH.
HEY, SO,
WANT TO STOP SOMEWHERE ON THE WAY BACK?
UM SURE.
OH,
WELCOME BACK!
I WATCHED THE BROAD-CAST.
CONGRATS!
...THANK YOU.
DRAW
Christmas SALE

I WAS THINKING...
I WANTED TO TWEAK MY SIDEBOARD A LITTLE FOR DAY TWO, COULD YOU...
OH, SURE THING.
GLAD TO BE OF SERVICE.
SHE ALREADY PLAYED SO MUCH TODAY.
BUT STILL COMES HERE AND PLAYS SOME MORE.
THAT'S DEDICATION.


SO, MANAKA,
WAS THAT PERSON IN THE LAST ROUND REALLY STRONG?
OHH YEAH,
SAKURA! SAID SHE WAS LIKE SUPER STRONG,
BUT YOU BEAT HER 2-0 IN NO TIME AT ALL.
!?
EITA WAS THERE TOO!?

.....
SEE, HE DOESN'T HATE YOU AT ALL!
GOOD FOR YOU!
SEEMS LIKE HE WAS THERE FOR ALL YOUR GAMES
YEP!
WHA-!?
...
YES, LET'S START!
Y-
GOOD TO GO?
ALRIGHT, I'M READY.
ABOUT MANAKA'S OPPONENT IN THE LAST ROUND.
ABOUT WHAT YOU WERE ASKING BEFORE...
OH, SO,
UH HUH?

THAT WAS AYANOKOJI. AND YEAH, SHE'S VERY STRONG.
HER DECISION-MAKING IS TOP NOTCH
LIKE SOMETHING RIGHT OUT OF A TEXTBOOK.
AND IT'S BECAUSE SHE'S SO STRONG
THAT SHE WAS ABLE TO TELL WHETHER OR NOT SHE COULD WIN WITHOUT HAVING TO PLAY IT ALL OUT.
EXACTLY.
THAT SHE CONCEDED SO QUICKLY IS A TESTAMENT TO HER SKILL. SHE COULD TELL SHE HAD NO CHANCE OF A COMEBACK.
HUH.
SO THEN,
HOW WERE YOU ABLE TO BEAT HER?
...
THAT'S...
A DIFFERENCE IN EXPERIENCE...
WITH THE MATCH-UP...
I GUESS YOU COULD SAY.

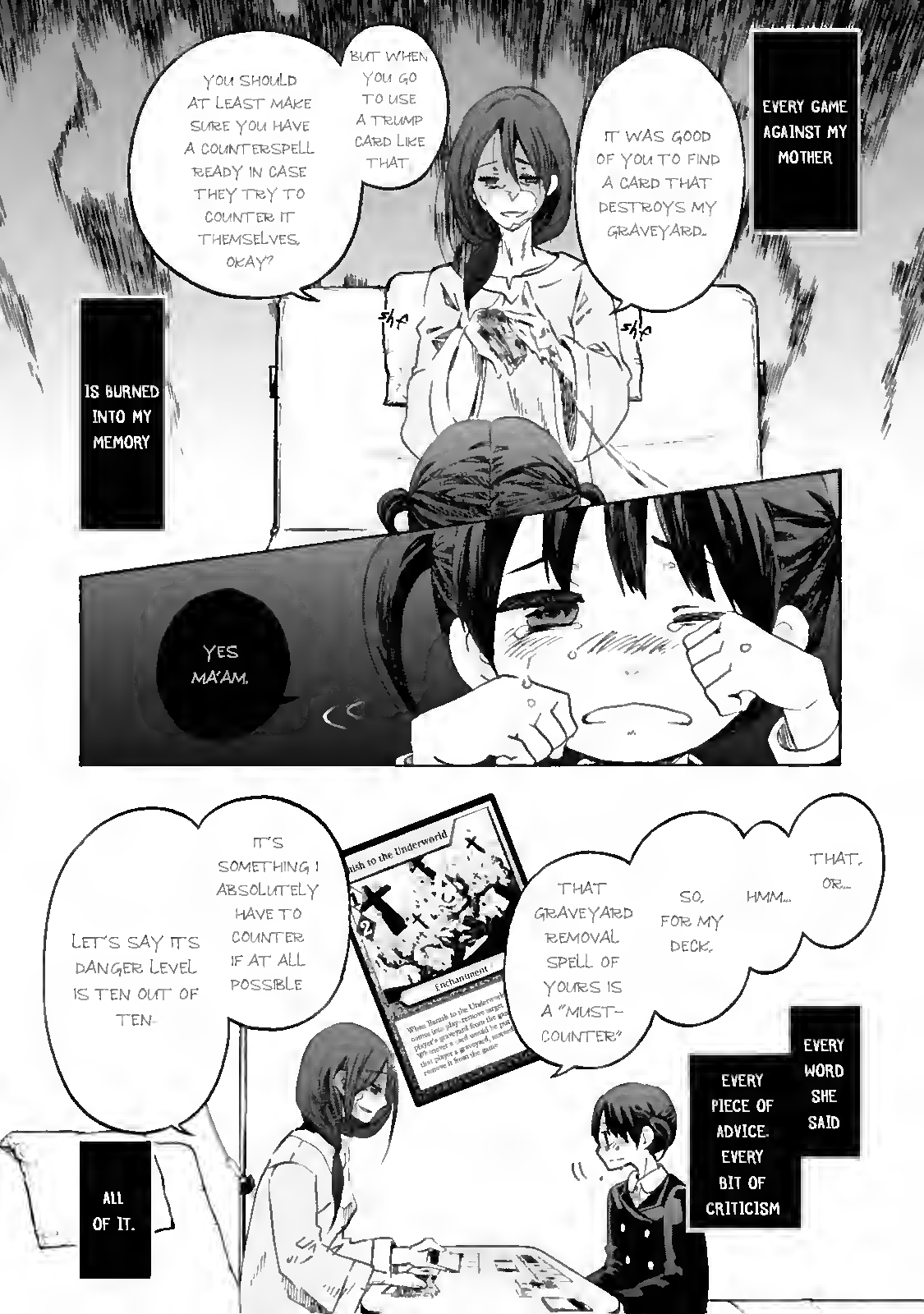
KOKONA...
...MY OPPONENT WAS PLAYING A TRIBAL DECK.
AND MORE-OVER,
ONE THAT MAKES USE OF ITS GRAVE-YARD
AS A RESOURCE TO REPLAY SPELLS AND CREATURES OVER AND OVER

TO PUT IT SIMPLY,
Maybe over-simply
IF YOU CAN KEEP CARDS OUT OF THEIR GRAVEYARD, YOU WIN.
THAT'S IT!?
COME ON
THEN JUST ANYBODY SHOULD BE ABLE TO WIN AGAINST IT.
YEAH, RIGHT?

WELL, THE SIMPLER THE COUNTER...
THE MORE LIKELY IT IS FOR THEM TO BE PREPARED FOR IT.
OH.
MAKES SENSE.
SPECIFICALLY, THEY COULD COUNTER-SPELL YOUR STUFF...
OR SOMEHOW MAKE IT SO YOU CAN'T CAST THE GRAVEYARD REMOVAL SPELLS TO BEGIN WITH.

AND WHEN IT COMES TO DOWN TO COUNTER WARS LIKE THAT...
I...
HAVE A LOT OF EXPERIENCE PLAYING AGAINST DECKS SIMILAR TO WHAT KOKONA WAS PLAYING.

SO WHEN THINKING ABOUT WHAT I WANTED TO COUNTER,
AND WHAT MY OPPONENT WOULDN'T WANT TO HAVE COUNTERED,
I HAD THE ADVAN-TAGE.
EXPERIENCE...


EVERY GAME AGAINST MY MOTHER
IT WAS GOOD OF YOU TO FIND A CARD THAT DESTROYS MY GRAVEYARD.
BUT WHEN YOU GO TO USE A TRUMP CARD LIKE THAT
YOU SHOULD AT LEAST MAKE SURE YOU HAVE A COUNTERSPELL READY IN CASE THEY TRY TO COUNTER IT THEMSELVES, OKAY?
IS BURNED INTO MY MEMORY
YES MA'AM.
EVERY WORD SHE SAID
EVERY PIECE OF ADVICE. EVERY BIT OF CRITICISM
ALL OF IT.
THAT, OR...
HMM...
SO, FOR MY DECK.
THAT GRAVEYARD REMOVAL SPELL OF YOURS IS A "MUST-COUNTER"
IT'S SOMETHING I ABSOLUTELY HAVE TO COUNTER IF AT ALL POSSIBLE
LET'S SAY IT'S DANGER LEVEL IS TEN OUT OF TEN.
Banish to the Underworld
Enchantment

WELL,
IF YOU HAD ONLY DRAWN IT THAT TURN THEN THERE WASN'T REALLY ANYTHING YOU COULD HAVE DONE ABOUT IT, I SUPPOSE.
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER FOR YOU TO CAST SOMETHING THAT WAS MAYBE AN EIGHT OUT OF TEN FIRST, TO TEST THE WATERS
SO WITH THAT IN MIND, AT LEAST IN THAT LAST GAME,
AT THAT POINT, STRONGER THAN MINE
SINCE YOUR BOARD POSITION WAS,
Wizard's Soul

I LOST EVERY TIME.
WHY? BECAUSE...

MY MEMORIES OF MY MOTHER ARE STILL FRESH
BUT, I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT DECKS WE USED, WHO I WAS PLAYING AGAINST, OR WHAT GRADE WE WERE IN
THE ONLY MEMORIES I HAVE OF PLAYING AGAINST OTHER KIDS ARE SOME VAGUE FEELINGS OF HAPPINESS FROM GAMES I WON.
I CAN'T LOSE
I CAN'T LET MYSELF LOSE
IF I DON'T WIN, MOM'S GOING TO DIE
I ESPECIALLY REMEMBER THE MISTAKES
THE MISTAKES I MADE
THE DECKS. THE CARDS.

THE AGONY OF LOSING CARVED EACH MEMORY INTO BOTH MY BRAIN AND MY HEART.
OR GIVING UP WERE THINGS I COULD NEVER LET MYSELF DO.
LAUGHING OFF A LOSS.
GETTING USED TO LOSING.
I LOST.
IF ONLY I'D DRAWN THAT CARD...
NO. IF I HADN'T MESSED UP THE ORDER ON TURN THREE...
NO. IF I HAD...
I HATED HAVING TO FIGHT AGAINST HER
I WANTED TO RUN AWAY I WANTED TO GIVE UP.
WHAT I REALLY WANTED TO DO WAS HAVE FUN PLAYING WITH MY MOTHER

IT FEELS LIKE I'LL BURST INTO TEARS IF I DON'T KILL MY EMOTIONS.
THOSE MEMORIES OF MY MOTHER ARE DRAGGED OUT FROM THE BACK OF MY MIND
DURING A GAME
WHEN I PLAY, I REMEMBER
THE PAIN. THE FRUSTRATION. THE DESPERATION.

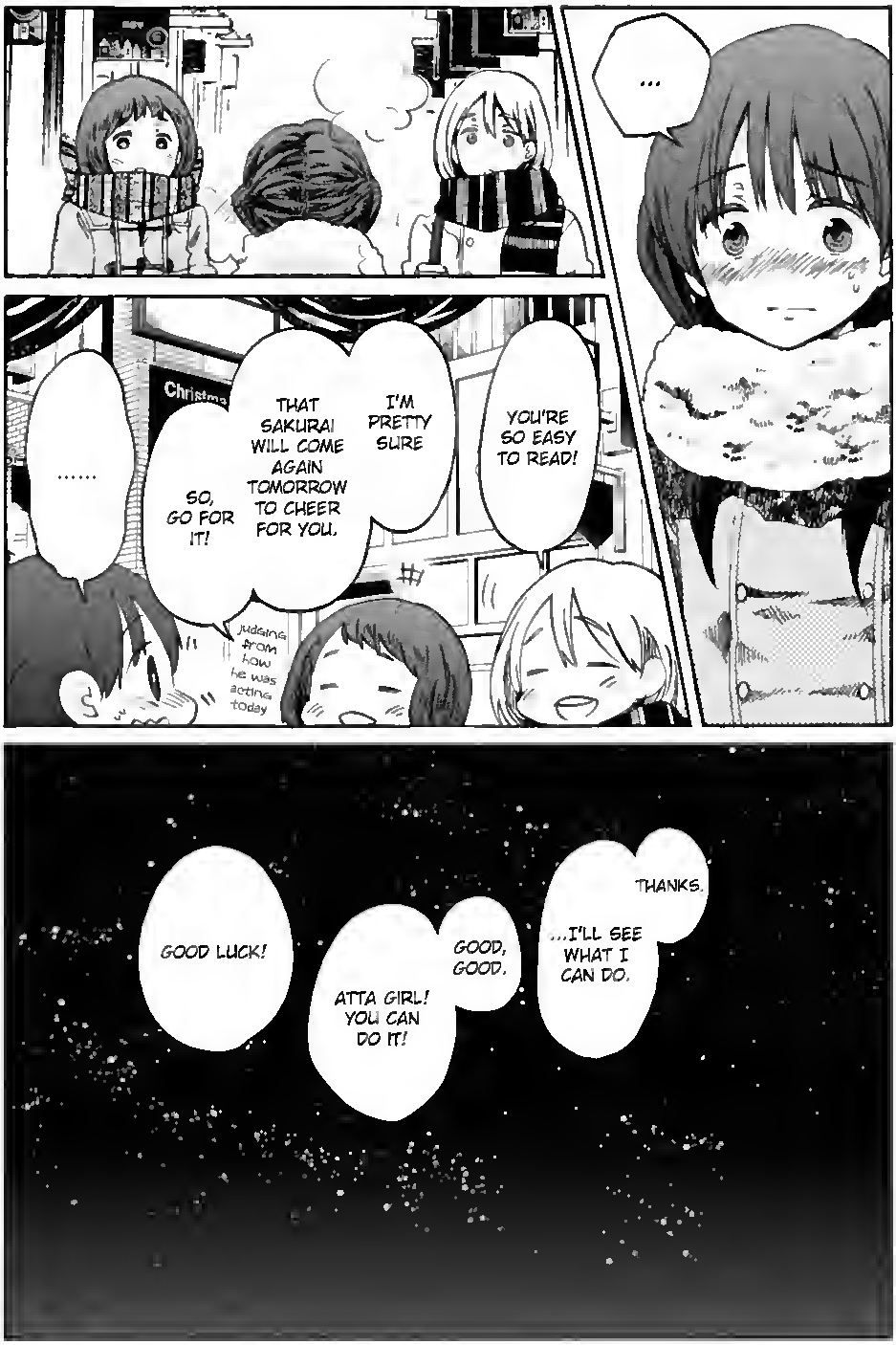
THAT'S WHY

I HATE
WIZARD'S SOUL.

WINTER SALE
...YEAH,
IT'S GOOD I MADE IT TO DAY TWO...
ANY-WAY,
I'M GLAD THINGS SEEM TO BE OKAY!
COME ON, NOT THAT PART!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR THE HELP.
NO PROB.
GOOD LUCK TOMORROW!
...!
HE WAS THERE CHEERING FOR YOU AND ALL.
SEEMS LIKE HE STILL LIKES YOU.
ABOUT SAKURAI!
NO,
IT'S OVER...

SOMEONE LIKE ME, WHO ONLY PLAYS FOR MONEY...
I... HATE IT.
AND THAT GAME HE LOVES SO MUCH...
WHY?
WHAT?
ALWAYS HAS SO MUCH FUN PLAYING WS.
EITA,

UMM...
I DUNNO, I KIND OF FEEL LIKE YOU DON'T NEED A "RIGHT" TO FALL IN LOVE WITH SOMEBODY.
MANAKA,
ARE YOU SAYING YOU DON'T LIKE HIM?
SO... WHAT?
DOESN'T...
...HAVE ANY RIGHT...
TO FALL FOR HIM...


...
YOU'RE SO EASY TO READ!
I'M PRETTY SURE
THAT SAKURA! WILL COME AGAIN TOMORROW TO CHEER FOR YOU.
SO, GO FOR IT!
.....
Judging from how he was acting today
THANKS.
...I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN DO.
GOOD, GOOD.
ATTA GIRL! YOU CAN DO IT!
GOOD LUCK!

Credits:

Author & Artist: Aki☆Eda

Notes:

The bag of potato chips are "tasty salt" flavor,
which is basically just "plain".
The brand name is "Chip Potato".

When the boss talks about "making it so you can't cast the graveyard removal spells to begin with", I got the impression he is referring to stuff like that card Ouji had that lets you name a card and makes it so no one can play it, or things like Cranial Extraction from MtG that let you remove all of a specific card from a player's hand+deck+graveyard.

A counter war is when you are countering each other's counterspells in order to try to protect/counter the original spell. Though in this case I think Manaka is also referring to a general situation where both parties are capable of countering things and so need to be careful what they cast, even if they might not have enough mana for a full blown counter war.

Astute readers will notice that "Banish to the Underworld" was shown earlier in the series as well (chapter 3). At the time, it was a sorcery, not an enchantment, and the text and cost were different. The card name and art stayed the same though. Not sure if that's just an error on the author's part, or if there are somehow multiple cards with the same name.
My guess is that they just wanted it to be more threatening so that it really was a "must-counter".

What the chip bag was based on, a common sight in convenience stores and the like.

For Valentine's day they made special boxes, one to give to the person you like (suki), and one for "obligatory" chocolate gifts (giri).

Cookies and Cream panda pocky

Pocky and a gundam model in the same box (the gundam can hold the pocky!)
White is "thin" pocky, red is normal, green is thick ("men's", lol :/)

yeah

Almond crunch pocky

there weren't a lot of notes so you get pictures of pocky, dwi